

# **Gretchen Parlato**

Live in NYC

ObliqSound OS115 ★★★★★

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**Gretchen Parlato (v, perc), Taylor Eigsti (p, kys) Alan Hampton, Burniss Earl Travis II (b, v), Mark Guilliana and Kendrick Scott (d). Rec. 5-6 December 2012**

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Celebrating 10 years since her arrival in New York City, this live CD/DVD from vocalist Gretchen Parlato provides irrefutable proof that – with the right singer and the right band – vocal jazz can be every bit as daring, rhythmically inventive and dramatic as the best instrumental jazz. And, in the closing ‘Better Than’, with the audience at New York’s Rockwood Music Hall singing along with Parlato and her band, as intensely moving. ‘Better Than’ is one of four tracks on the accompanying DVD, which also features Taylor Eigsti’s dreamy left-hand EP chords and incredible right-hand runs on the Steinway grand in ‘Butterfly’, the percussive, polyrhythmic whirlwind of ‘Alô Alô’ and the wonderful rhythmic fluidity of ‘Weak’. The nine-track audio CD includes songs from all three of Parlato’s albums to date: her 2005 self-titled debut, *In a Dream* (2009) and *The Lost and Found* (2011). Parlato’s musicianship is of an immensely high order, and in the company of two different line-ups – Taylor Eigsti, Alan Hampton and Mark Guilliana on the one hand, Eigsti, Burniss Earl Travis and Kendrick Scott on the other – it’s fascinating to hear how this material has evolved over time.

**Peter Quinn**